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OAKHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER, 1945

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GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,250
Registrar General's estimate of population	3,450
Number of inhabitated houses	1,008
Rateable Value	£21,851
Sum represented by a penny rate...	£85

VITAL STATISTICS

	Rate for District	Rate for England & Wales
Birth Rate...	18.8	16.1
Death Rate..	13.0	11.4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	46	46

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. (1) Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health - J. Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Camb.

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

Sanitary Inspector - H. Tabberer, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor of the Urban District.

(11) Laboratory Facilities

The following examinations in your area were carried out during the year:-

Blood	33
Faeces	58
Vaginal Swabs	5
C.S.F.	5
Throat Swabs...	86
Nose Swabs	7
Ear Swabs...	4
Sputum	1
Urine	1
Skin Swabs	5
Pus	1
Serum	1
Abscess Swabs..	4
Pleural Fluid..	3
Boiled Tongue..	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (1) WATER

Number of samples taken for analysis:-

	Chemical	Bacteriological
(a) from wells	-	1
(b) from pipe supply...	-	26

Result of samples taken:-

(a) from wells - unsatisfactory		1
satisfactory		-
(b) from pipe supply - unsatisfactory		7
satisfactory		19

The unsatisfactory well water is not used for drinking. The public supply has been restricted for most of the year. A full 24-hour supply was given in the early part of the year for a short period.

No cases of Company water being substituted for well water occurred. The mains supply is now chlorinated with marked improvement in results of tests.

The water is being supplied by the Oakham Water Company. The Council hope to acquire the undertaking in 1946. Ministry enquiry is awaited. It will be seen from figures given that the quality of the water as delivered to the consumer has not always been satisfactory bacteriologically; the trouble seems to arise mostly from mains - there are too many 'dead ends'.

One of the first things which will be done when the Council acquire the undertaking will be to link up many of the ends of the mains. Owing to shortage of supply the mains cannot be flushed as they should be. The water is hard and the shortage has made the normal lime softening process impossible for most of 1945. There is no tendency to plumbo-solvency.

About 97% of the houses and of the population are supplied by the Company. In many cases the water is not laid on to the houses and in some cases 1 tap is shared by 2 or more houses.

There are no public stand-pipes.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Cold Overton Road sewer was extended to serve a new Factory, an existing cottage, etc.
One cesspool was constructed during the year.
One " was abolished during the year.

Total number of cesspools in the District at the end of 1945 6

2. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number in the District at the end of 1945:-

(1) Privies	-
(2) Pail Closets	35
(3) Water closets...	1060

Number of privies and Pail Closets converted to the water carriage system during the year 3

Number of Pail Closets abolished during the year... ... 2

Water or sewer are not available to the 20 of the above 35 Pail Closets. Others will disappear as a result of the Demolition Orders or conversion, etc., in the near future. Pail Closet conversions to water carriage for the last five years have been 1, nil, nil, 2 and 3.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

The difficulty of obtaining new dust-bins has not been quite so pronounced and many new ones have been provided,

Oakham still holds a leading place for salvage collection per 1,000 population in this region.

One man is now continually engaged on the Refuse Tip with beneficial results. The tip is kept practically free from rats and no fly nuisance occurs. The Council have acquired a Karrier Bantam petrol-driven refuse collecting vehicle, and the work is now done in less than 5 days.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The particulars given under this Heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report.

Total number of complaints received	16
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered arising out of complaints	14

Nature of inspections:-

		Inspections & re-inspections
	Dwelling houses (all purposes)	145
	Tents, Vans, etc.	-
x	Slaughter houses	-
	Food premises...	40
	Dairies and cowsheds	9
	Offensive trades	-
	Animal keeping...	6
	Workshops, etc...	24
	Shops...	18
	Other premises...	40
	Lodging Houses...	4
		286

x Officially no slaughtering is done in Oakham. Occasional pigs are killed, however.

NOTICES

Preliminary	Housing	Other
Outstanding on 1st. January, 1945	-	1
Issued during the year	4	10
Complied with during year	4	11
Outstanding 31st. December, 1945	-	-
Statutory action necessary	-	-

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NOTICES

Statutory	Housing	Other
Outstanding 1st. January, 1945	9	-
Issued during the year	2	-
Complied with during year	5	-
Outstanding 31st. December, 1945	6	-

All the above 6 Housing Notices were Demolition Orders, 6 of which are operative. Three houses are partly demolished. Only two of the six are occupied.

(iv) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Council houses infested	1
Number of other dwelling houses found to be infested	6
Number of houses disinfested	7

The method of disinfestation was by spraying and fumigating and destruction of infested bedding, etc.

(v) SCHOOLS

The Central School is a modern well-lighted building; so also are the Junior House and "Wharflands". The others are mainly old-fashioned, but the sanitary conditions are satisfactory and the water supply is normally good. The restricted supply from the mains made it difficult to keep School sanitary conveniences flushed as they should be. "Deanscroft" was closed as a School for physically defective L.C.C. children. It will probably opened up in the near future as an Oakham School House.

(vi) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Owned by School Trustees and loaned to the Council...	1
Number of inspections	4

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

	Cowkeepers	Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)
Number on the Register	6	7
Number of inspections of premises...	6	3
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year ...	-	-
Number of contraventions found during the year...	-	-
Number of contraventions remedied during the year	-	-

(Of the 7 Dairymen 4 have no premises in Oakham)

(b) MEAT SHOPS, MEAT STORES, ETC.

Number of inspections	6

(c) PLACES WHERE FOOD (OTHER THAN MEAT) IS KEPT OR PREPARED FOR SALE

Number of inspections	34

$7\frac{3}{4}$ lbs bacon, 50 lbs peaches and apricots, 4 tins pilchards, 6 tins of herrings, 2 lbs rolled oats, 22 tins milk, 76 lbs lentils, 12 lbs tea and 28 lbs canned meat, were voluntarily surrendered as unfit.

H O U S I N G

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 70

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 88

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 9

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 2

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 2

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... 3

(No actual Demolition Order existed, but an Order of County Court calling for 1 demolition applied)

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice under Section 9 Housing Act, 1936:-

By Owners ... ... -

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice served under Public Health Act, 1936.. 1

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING

(a) (i) Number of dwelling houses known to be overcrowded at the end of 1945 6

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 8

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 44

At least three cases of overcrowding have been abated in 1945. The position is, of course, always changing due to demobilisation, etc. There are at present living in Oakham 100 applicants for Council Houses. Many of these persons are sharing houses with parents. In addition about 40 persons now outside the Urban District also require houses here. In 1946 at least 23 more homes should be available. One large house is being converted into 5 flats and the Council will have 10 temporary houses and 8 permanent ready. Two houses have been thoroughly re-conditioned.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	1	-
Dysentery	13	1	-
Food poisoning	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	10	9	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Pneumonia	4	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	-
Measles	16	-	-

At least 5 cases of Measles occurred in cases who have now left the District.

AGE GROUPS

Disease	Under one	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-64	65 & Over
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	5	1	3	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	3	1	1	-
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Measles	-	1	-	-	3	8	3	-	1	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS
New Cases and Mortality during 1945

AGE GROUP	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SCABIES

Arrangements have been made with the Joint Committee of the Melton & Belvoir Rural District Council and the Melton Mowbray Urban District Council for the treatment of cases of Scabies in the area at the Scabies Centre, Melton Mowbray. No cases were treated during the Year.

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